

# Watershed Planning Process

What level of assessment is expected?

---

Vince Sitzmann  
DSC



# Identifying water quality concerns

Typically this step should be completed by the time the watershed planner is brought into the mix, however completing the assessment should help identify the sources and in some cases quantify pollutant loading

# Determining reasonable, yet meaningful, water quality objectives

Determined by the local work group and should be based on designated uses

Objectives should be quantifiable

# What level of assessment is expected?

- ▶ For most projects we expect a fairly comprehensive assessment of potential point and nonpoint source threats to water quality
- ▶ Based on the Project's water quality objectives
- ▶ Size of the watershed will determine the detail required
  - Smaller watersheds < 25,000
  - Larger watersheds > 25,000

# What level of assessment is expected?

Physical

Social

Financial



# Physical Assessment

- Sheet and rill erosion
  - ▶ RUSLE/RUSLE II sediment delivery model
- Streambank/streambed erosion
  - ▶ Modified version of the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol using the Rapid Assessment of Stream Conditions Along Length (RASCAL)
- Gully erosion
  - ▶ RASCAL

# Physical Assessment Cont...

- ▶ Livestock operations
  - Pastures, open lots, confined operations



# Physical Assessment Cont...

## ► Other point and nonpoint sources

- Super fund sites
- Brownfield sites
- Underground storage tanks
- Septic systems
- Others



# Physical Assessment Cont...

- Urban watersheds
  - Impervious cover
  - NPDES Permits
  - Storm drains

# Social Assessment

- ▶ Landowner surveys
- ▶ Public/stakeholder surveys
- ▶ Local or statewide political assets or liabilities in the project area

# Financial Assessment

- ▶ Determine potential financial commitment from local sources
- ▶ Identify agency support
- ▶ Other sources such as NGOs, foundations, etc.

# Comments or Questions

---

Vince Sitzmann

Iowa DSC

515-242-6008

[vince.sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:vince.sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us)